



## OFFICE OF GOVERNOR MARK DAYTON

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# Budget for a Better Minnesota: Education

## A Historic Investment in Education

For the first time in history, we are investing in free, all-day Kindergarten for every child in Minnesota, and we are giving thousands of children access to high-quality preschool and child care. With nearly a billion dollars in new money for education, this budget invests in every learner in Minnesota. This new funding will help give our kids access to a world-class education and train the best-educated workforce in the world. This budget also keeps our promise to finish paying back our debt to Minnesota's children by eliminating the school shift.

### Investing \$485 Million in Minnesota's Students

» **Investing in Minnesota Students.** The budget increases E-12 funding by \$485 million, including:

- **More Funding For Every School in Minnesota.** The budget invests an additional \$234 million in the school funding formula, providing schools with an increase in funding in each of the next two years.
- **All Day Kindergarten for Every Child.** The budget invests \$134 million to help Minnesota school districts provide optional All-Day K to every student, free of charge. Currently, only 54% of Minnesota's Kindergarten students have access to free all-day Kindergarten, with thousands of families having to pay out of pocket.
- **Reforming the Special Education Formula.** The budget invests \$40 million in special education reform, providing needed funding reform and greater funding equity for schools.
- **Early Learning Scholarships for 8,000 Kids.** The budget invests \$40 million in scholarships that will help thousands more children attend high quality child care and preschool to ensure that children are prepared for Kindergarten and beyond. Families will be eligible for up to \$5,000 in scholarships.
- **Repaying our Schools.** The budget accelerates repayment of the money that the state borrowed from our schools in previous bienniums.
- **Testing Reform to Improve How We Measure Student Achievement.** The bill will help move away from punitive testing standards, to help districts implement college and career readiness exams.